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## **SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

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## **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **OC Sheriff's Department and DEA Host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

**SANTA ANA, California** (September 25, 2012) – On September 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to the following sites. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Below is a list of collection sites:

<b>Collection Site</b>	<b>Street Address</b>
OCSD South Sub-Station	11 Journey, Aliso Viejo
Laguna Hills City Hall	24035 El Toro, Laguna Hills
Laguna Niguel City Hall	30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel
Mission Viejo City Hall	200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo
San Clemente Police Services	100 Ave. Presidio, San Clemente
San Juan Capistrano City Hall	32400 Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano
Woodgate Park	Parkwood Court, Yorba Linda

Last April, Americans turned in 552,161 pounds—276 tons—of prescription drugs at over 5,600 sites operated by the DEA and nearly 4,300 state and local law enforcement partners. In its four previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 1.5 million pounds—nearly 775 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. More than 7 million people aged 12 and older abused prescription drugs in 2010, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The Partnership at DrugFree.org reports that nearly one in five teens has taken a prescription medication to get high, without having his or her own prescription. In fact, every day 2,500 teenagers use a prescription drug to get high for the first time.

The majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from friends and relatives, including the home medicine cabinet, according to national studies. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

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